

Conservation Technical Assistance

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's principal agency for providing conservation technical assistance to private landowners, conservation districts, tribes, and other organizations.

NRCS delivers conservation technical assistance through its voluntary Conservation Technical Assistance Program (CTA). CTA is delivered to private individuals, groups of decision-makers, tribes, units of governments, and non-governmental organizations in the 50 United States and its territories.



What is Conservation Technical Assistance?

Conservation technical assistance is the help NRCS and its partners provide to land users to address opportunities, concerns, and problems related to the use of natural resources and to help land users make sound natural resource management decisions on private, tribal, and other non-federal lands.

CTA planning can also serve as a door to financial assistance and easement conservation programs provided by other Federal, State, and local programs.



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This assistance can help land users:

- Maintain and improve private lands and their management
- Implement better land management technologies
- Protect and improve water quality and quantity
- Maintain and improve wildlife and fish habitat
- Enhance recreational opportunities on their land
- Maintain and improve the aesthetic character of private land
- Explore opportunities to diversify agricultural operations
- Develop and apply sustainable agricultural systems

This assistance may be in the form of resource assessment, practice design, resource monitoring, or follow-up of installed practices.

Although the program does not include financial or cost-share assistance, clients develop conservation plans with NRCS, which may serve as a springboard for those interested in participating in USDA financial assistance programs.



Who Needs Conservation Technical Assistance?

NRCS and its partners use the CTA program to provide technical assistance to:

- farmers
- ranchers
- local units of government
- citizen groups
- recreation groups
- Tribal governments
- professional consultants
- State and Federal agencies
- Others interested in conserving natural resources

Montana

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